(c) The reasons for lower production and slower growth in agriculture during 1997-98 arc attributed to deficient rainfall in the central parts of the country and frequent heavy rains in November and December, 1997, thus delaying the sowing process of rabi crops in most parts of the country.

(d) To accelerate the growth in agriculture sector, the Government is implementing various crop-specific development programmes relating to cereals, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, sugarcane, jute and horticulture crops. Besides, the Government is providing price and market support to the farmers as well as expanding the network of irrigation facilities to more areas etc.

Production of Shrimp

899. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the annual production of shrimp during the last three years;

(b) whether there has been a sharp decline in the production of shrimp in the country every year for the last;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken to increase the production of shrimps with the increase in demand of shrimp in the international market; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICUTLURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The annual production of shrimp during 1994-95 to 1996-97 is given below:

Year	Shrimp Production ('000 tonnes)
1994-95	360
1995-96	331
1996-97	361 (Provisional)

(b) and (c) There has been no sharp decline in the shrimp production during the above period. However, the decline in production during 1995-96 is attributed to White Spot viral disease in isolated pockets and declaration of crop holiday for four months due to the occurrence of disease.

(d) and (e) The steps taken by the Government for increasing the production of shrimp *inter alia* include:—

(i) development of scientific shrimp farming through Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies and providing package of technical, financial and extension support to shrimp growers;

(ii) encouraging establishment of integrated shrimp farms and support facilities such as seed hatcheries, feed mill, etc. in the Government/ public/private sectors.

(iii) human resource development by establishing demonstration-cum-training centres; and

(iv) issue of guidelines outlining measures for development and management of sustainable brackishwater aquaculture practices, etc.

Decline in cotton production

900. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of cotton has declined heavily during the last four years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) what are the reasons for the decline in the production thereof; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to save the cotton-seeds from infestation insects therein, together with the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The production of cotton in the country has been consistently rising during 1994-95 to 1996-

97. However, there is a decline in cotton production during 1997-98. A Statement giving State-wise estimates of production of cotton during 1994-95 to 1997-98 is annexed. (See below)

(c) The decline in production of cotton during 1997-98 is attributed to unfavourable weather conditions. There was heavy rain and subsequent water logging in north zone and parts of Gujarat. Unusually, wet spell in October-Novermber affected crop prospects in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and parts of Karnataka. The unseasonal late rainfall in December further damaged the standing crop. Further, in the north zone, there was a reduction in yield upto 20 per cent, due to Leaf Curl. Virus diseases. The boll-worms, Heliothis and Prodenia also damaged the cotton crop to a great extent in the central and south zone. These cumulatively led to a reduction in the yield.

(d) Action plans have been proposed and put into action in the north zone to prevent the spread of Leaf Curl Virus disease. Similarly, to 'combat the boll-worms, the Integrated Pest Management Insecticide Resistance Management have been perfected and the extension agencies have been advised to instruct the farmers to combat the bollworm broblem. The experience and resultant benefits gained by the contact farmers under ICAR and Ministry of Agriculture sponsored Front Line Demonstration Programme in cotton have enthused further the extension officials in many cotton growing states. These spin off benefits have already been felt in many cotton growing areas.

Statement

Statewise Estimates of Production of Cotton, 1994-95 to 1997-98

State	Production	(Thousand Bales of 170 Kgs. Each)		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Andhra Pradesh	1426	1610	1849	1169
Gujarat	2269	2202	2657	2758
Haryana	1373	1283	1504	1125
Karnataka	822	849	932	812
Madhya Pradesh	346	424	437	907
Maharashtra	2500	2796	3143	1860
Punjab	1779	1950	1925	908
Rajasthan	875	1338	1363	1389
Tamil Nadu	440	339	373	411
Uttar Pradesh	12	15	7	8
Others	46	54	61	71
ALL INDIA	11888	12861	14252	11418

Production of vegetables and plantation

901. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the production of vegetables and plantation in the States during the last three years, separately, State-wise;

(b) the names of the States which have attained self-sufficiency in vegetables plantation production;

(c) whether the food processing industries are threatening self-sufficiency in availability of green .vegetables and fruits; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?